

## TWO CENTURIES OLD.

One of the Landmarks of Potty  
Chicopee, Mass.

A House Supposed to Be Two Hundred  
and Forty Years of Age—It Defied  
Indian Attack and Had Other  
Adventures.

Quaint old Chicopee is the location of a house supposed to be 225 years old, one of the oldest houses in the state. It is, says the Boston Globe, in a good state of preservation, and at the present time is used as a residence by a man who first saw the light of day there fifty-seven years ago and has always lived in it.

The history of the house cannot be traced back by documentary evidence; it is probable that all the records that could prove the age of the old place have been destroyed by a fire at Northampton.

The only evidence on which to base the claim for its age is that furnished by those who have learned its history from the tradition handed down to them.

The picture of the house, which is a good one, will be familiar to all who have seen what is known as "Snow house," situated on Field brook, now commonly known as Cooley's brook, the famous resort for trout fishing.

It is now in Chicopee, but in its early history was in Springfield, and was embraced in that part long ago set off as Chicopee. It is about one and a half miles outside the village of Chicopee Falls, off the main highway.

The present occupant of the house is Nathan Churchill Snow. He has lived alone in the house for the last fifteen years, where his wife's death occurred. He makes his living by farming, and has all the old-fashioned ideas about the life of a farmer. He rises at two or three o'clock every morning in summer and not later than five o'clock in winter. Oftentimes Mr. Snow has a load of wood, straw or hay delivered in Springfield before six o'clock in the morning.

He will be fifty-seven years old September 18 and boasts that never in his life has he touched a drop of intoxicating liquor, but says he likes good tobacco. Mr. Snow served in the Thirty-seventh Massachusetts regiment during the late war.

A century ago the grandfather of the present owner of the house came from Bridgewater, Conn., and took up his residence in this old house, getting it from Urial Cooley. Churchill Snow was the next owner, and now his son holds it.

The traditions handed down to the present Mr. Snow would make the house 240 years old, but from stories



A HOUSE SO OLD NO ONE CAN TELL ITS AGE.

from other sources he thinks it is even older.

A story can be traced back which originated with Reuben Burt, who was a veteran of the revolutionary war; he said the house was over 100 years old at the time of the war.

Stillman Munger, father of Hiram Munger, the well-known Advent preacher, who has preached at more camp meetings than any man living, remembered the house standing in the same place when he was twelve years old, and the son, Hiram Munger, is now about eighty-one years old.

In the north room of the old house the first Methodist meeting ever held in Hampden county took place. It was conducted by Rev. Mr. Hedding, afterwards Bishop Hedding.

Rev. Lorenzo Dow, whose name is known to nearly every Methodist, also preached in the house.

Hiram Munger, who can remember events of seventy-three years ago, says he has no doubt the house is much over 200 years old, for at that time it was credited with 150 or 175 years.

Records in City Clerk White's office show that early in the year 1660 Urial Cooley was one of the persons to settle at Slipmuck, which was the early name for that section. That was the Urial Cooley family from which the Snow family bought the house.

The building is but one story high, and to all appearances never knew what it was to have a coat of paint.

It is remarkably well preserved, and the wood shows very little of the ravages of time. As will be seen by the picture, the chimney is in the center of the building, and the roof has begun to sag with age.

Entering the front door you find yourself in a hall about ten feet square. The chimney, which projects into this hall, was built of blue clay, and stands well the wear of time. To the left and right of the hallway are the two rooms which constitute the house.

Mr. Snow some time ago thought of tearing down the old house, but friends who knew of the old age of the building persuaded him to let it remain. The people of Chicopee would be sorry to lose the old landmark.

A Queer Way to Eat.

The king or horseshoe crab chews its food with its legs, the little animal grinding its morsels between its thighs before it passes them over to its mouth.

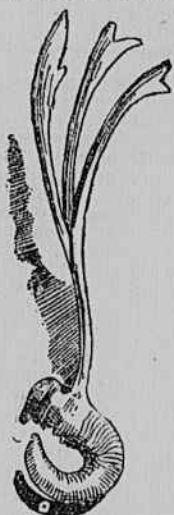
Cupid's Headquarters.  
Rival squire is marrying eloping couples free of charge at Jeffersonville, Ind.

## A CURIOUS FUNGUS.

Living Organisms Which Are Insects in Summer and Plants in Winter.

The department of state has received from Consul Jones, at Chinkiang, China, a small bottle containing some specimens of the curious fungus that grows out of a species of caterpillar, literally transforming the animal into a vegetable and causing the unhappy insect to serve the purpose of a root. It is the larva of a kind of moth, and when the cold of winter approaches it makes its way down into the soil to the depth of three or four inches. There it is attacked by this remarkable disease and regularly sprouts, sending up a long shoot which appears and fructifies above the ground like any mushroom, forming spores for the purpose of its own reproduction.

The natives of Tibet and in the provinces of Hupeh and Szechuan go about looking for this fungus in the neighborhood of a certain sort of myrtle trees, where only it is to be found. They dig up such specimens as they



CATERPILLAR AND FUNGUS.

discover and make them into little bundles, tied with red thread. In this shape they are sold as a medicine, which is esteemed if possible more highly than the famous ginseng, being considered a powerful curative agent for diseases of the throat and lungs. Thus prepared for market they look like diminutive bulrushes, each having for its root the mummy of a caterpillar.

Now this fungus has no other method of growing than the one described. Therefore the fructifying top that is above ground scatters its spores around under the scarlet-flowered myrtles on which the caterpillars feed. When the latter burrow into the soil to hibernate, they are apt to stir up some of the hostile germs, whereupon they are at once attacked and speedily transformed into vegetable tissue. Their bodies, without losing their natural shape or external appearance, are wholly filled with the mycelium, and the substance of their flesh is metamorphosed into stalks sprouting from their heads. Thus is afforded the remarkable spectacle of living organisms which are insects in summer and plants in winter. Of course, a sufficient number of these afflicted larvae must escape this fate to perpetuate their species from year to year and to supply reproductive opportunities for the fungus.

Curiously enough, the common white grub, which is the larva of a beetle, is in many parts of the United States attacked by a fungus in a manner in all respects similar. It has been suggested that measures might be profitably taken to artificially inoculate this destructive worm on a large scale with the disease, with a view to bringing about its partial or entire extermination. Thus far no economic use has been found for the sprouts produced. In New Zealand there grows out of the body of a big caterpillar a surprising edible mushroom, the stalks of which are eight to ten inches in length and are much prized by the natives as an article of food. The latter also burn it for use as a coloring matter. There is a fungus found in Costa Rica which in the same way employs a kind of beetle for its nests, as one might say. —Philadelphia Press.

## SCIENTIFIC DROPS.

The practice of "cold sawing" of steel and iron is being generally adopted.

The artificial incubation of eggs originated in Egypt, where it is still carried on.

Washing old silk in beer is said to give it a luster almost equal to that possessed when new.

The amount of phosphorus consumed per annum is about 2,000 tons, and is chiefly used in match making.

A JAPANESE recommends cleansing the hands with tartrate of ammonium to avoid poisoning with white lead.

ELECTRIC light or power is now used in nearly forty American mines, and with such success that a rapid extension of electric mining is anticipated.

The French Society of Physiological Psychology proposes to investigate the phenomena in which he imagines he sees or hears an absent person.

## A New Disinfectant.

A recent discovery, which is the outcome of the investigations of Dr. H. Oppermann, and which he has also patented, is the application of dolomite to antiseptics. The dolomite, after a special preparation, is mixed with a certain proportion of oxide of iron and iron pyrites, and the mixture is employed in the form of a powder. According to the experiments made at the hygiene institute at Kiel it seems likely to substantiate its reported efficiency.

## Improved Cementing Material.

V. L. Dagueau says: "This material is called by the inventor pyrocement, and is a blackish product, which adheres strongly to iron, wood, stone," etc. The following constituents and proportions yield a useful result: Eighteen to 25 per cent. of gas petroleum or other resinous matters, 75 to 80 per cent. of clay or argillaceous earth and silica, 2 to 8 per cent. of natural sulphates."

## TO REMOVE BLACKHEADS.

Never Make the Popular Mistake of Pinching Them Out.

One of the most fruitful sources of "blackheads" is the veil.

A woman will throw aside a white veil after two or three wearings because it looks soiled. She will wear a black one a month, not realizing that the meshes have become saturated with dust and exhalations disastrous to a delicate skin. This by constant friction is rubbed in till it is settled deep in the pores and sealed there by a black speck.

Another source is washing off powder with water instead of cleansing it with creams.

The latter softens the tissue and extracts the foreign substance from the pores. The former makes a hard mortar-like paste which settles tightly into them. Old powder, a soiled powder cloth or puff, an uncovered puff box, neglected perspiration, are all conducive to the same end.

Street dust is of course unavoidable, but it is much less harmful taken straight to the skin than through a veil. On entering the house after a long walk or shopping tour, a pure soothing cream should be immediately applied and allowed to remain for some time to take out the heat and loosen particles of dust, after which the face should be bathed lightly in soap (very little soap) and warm water, and powdered afresh.

As to removing blackheads, the one thing not to do is to squeeze them out.

This has an effect similar to drawing nails out of wood. The pores are made larger and remain open, taking in a larger supply next time.

A scalding lather of soap and water and light swift circular motions with a soft tooth brush or fine cloth is the way to treat these pests.

Repeat the operation every evening for five or six days. The water must be as hot as it can possibly be borne, the soap absolutely pure, the lather thick; the rubbing must continue till good sense says: "Do not rub any more this time or you will break the skin." Do not wash off the lather. Let it remain on till morning. The skin will show red as a beet each time, but that passes in a few moments and does not harm the skin in the least.

If six times do not prove sufficient, make it seven, ten, fourteen. If any final stubborn ones remain, moisten a very fine cloth with Holland gin and rub round and round till they disappear. —N. Y. World.

## NOVEL LETTER RACK.

It Is Made of the Tough Shell of the Horseshoe Crab.

A convenient hanging rack for letters may be made of the tough, thin, brown shell of the large horseshoe or king crab. Remove the horseshoe—the largest piece of the shell—place it on heavy pasteboard and mark around it carefully with a pencil. Cut this pasteboard, back in a graceful curve, several inches higher at the top than your shell. Cover neatly with red silk or velvet paper, and glue the shell on, the points of the shell,



HORSESHOE CRAB LETTER RACK.

of course, turning upwards. If preferred, the rack may be left uncovered, and after the glue is dry the whole rack may be gilded.

Little white horseshoes are often thrown up by the waves. These can be mounted in a similar way for watch-cases to hang near the head of the bed at night. The back must be covered with velvet softly wadded, with a little gilt hook at the top to hold the watch. —Harper's Young People.

## VERY SERVICEABLE.

A Mantelet Consisting of Double-Sided Material.

Every woman who travels appreciates the value of a mantelet. The prettiest

kind of a mantelet is one which consists of double-sided stuff. Let one side, for example, be of dove-colored woolen material, the other of a brown frize-like texture. The garment can now be worn with either side out, just as one desires. If thrown open when one is traveling it is just as pretty on the inside as on the outside. The comfort of having a garment that is sure to look pretty whether it is rolled up as a pillow for one's head, or is thrown back over the car seat, or is used as a lap robe, can only be appreciated by a woman who possesses such a wrap, and who has traveled a couple of months in its companionship. A hood is a very pretty accompaniment to the mantelet, and it is likewise a very useful one. In cases of emergency it can be drawn up over the hat to protect the latter from a sudden shower. It can also be worn on board a ship should the breezes be so strong as to prohibit the wearing of a broad-brimmed headgear. It is good when the cold winds blow to protect one's neck from neuralgia, and when off duty it looks very pretty hanging in the back of the garment to which it belongs. By all means have a hood to your mantelet, and make it up in as pretty a shape as you can. —Chicago News.

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